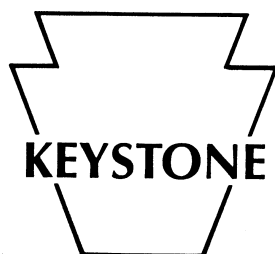




NASS



KEYSTONE Ag Digest

Released: Early September 2002

Bi-Monthly

Vol. 02 No. 17

Highlights

Mushroom Production
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Livestock Slaughter

Pennsylvania growers supplied 55 percent of all Agaricus mushrooms grown in the U.S. Sales of Pennsylvania Agaricus mushrooms accounted for 51 percent of the nation's fresh market sales and 74 percent of processing sales.

Fresh market sales, at 353 million pounds, were up 3 percent from the 2000-2001 season. Processing sales, at 106 million pounds, were down 3 percent. During the 2001-2002 season, growers in Pennsylvania received an average of 95 cents per pound for fresh market sales and 51 cents per pound for sales to processors. Prices for mushrooms are the average prices that producers receive at the point of first sale.

Nationally, production of Agaricus mushrooms totaled 851 million pounds, down 1 percent from the previous season. Eighty-three percent of Agaricus mushrooms were sold in the fresh market and 17 percent were sold for processing. In addition, 14.1 million pounds of specialty mushrooms were produced during the 2001-2002 season, down 3 percent from last year. Specialty mushrooms include Shiitake, Oyster, and all other specialty varieties. Virtually all specialty mushrooms are sold fresh. Producers received an average price of \$1.07 per pound for Agaricus mushrooms and \$2.77 per pound for specialty mushrooms, 27 cents or 9 percent less than last year.

The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address:

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm>

MUSHROOM PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania growers led all states in production with 460 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms during the 2001-2002 season, up 2 percent from last year's production. The Agaricus crop was valued at 390 million dollars, 9 percent more than the value of the 2000-2001 crop.

PENNSYLVANIA & UNITED STATES: AGARICUS MUSHROOM SALES BY TYPE JULY 1,1999 - JUNE 30,2002

Year	Fresh Market			Processing			All Sales			Growers
	Volume of Sales	Price per Pound	Value of Sales	Volume of Sales	Price per Pound	Value of Sales	Volume of Sales	Price per Pound	Value of Sales	
	1,000 Lbs.	Dollars	1,000 Dols.	1,000 Lbs.	Dollars	1,000 Dols.	1,000 Lbs.	Dollars	1,000 Dols.	Number
1999-00										
Pennsylvania	310,590	0.845	262,449	132,025	0.571	75,386	442,615	0.763	337,835	86
United States	668,541	1.070	715,943	185,853	0.606	112,608	854,394	0.970	828,551	147
2000-01										
Pennsylvania	343,450	0.859	295,024	109,556	0.568	62,228	453,006	0.789	357,252	80
United States	692,630	1.060	736,543	153,579	0.579	88,957	846,209	0.976	825,500	137
2001-02										
Pennsylvania	353,219	0.952	336,264	106,374	0.508	54,038	459,593	0.849	390,302	78
United States	694,537	1.150	799,406	143,329	0.524	75,130	837,866	1.040	874,536	129

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, AUGUST 2002

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Aug 2001	Jul 2002	Aug 2002 ¹	Aug 2001	Jul 2002	Aug 2002 ¹
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn	Bu.	2.33	2.73	3.07	1.90	2.13	2.48
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.71	3.19	3.59
Oats	Bu.	1.47	1.65	1.81	1.25	1.69	1.75
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.41	2.11	2.36
Hay, Dry All	Ton	105.00	118.00	114.00	97.40	93.60	93.70
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	119.00	139.00	136.00	105.00	102.00	101.00
Dry Other	Ton	90.00	105.00	105.00	74.30	72.20	71.30
Apples, Fresh Use	Lb.	.170	.220	⁵	.173	.206	.245
Potatoes	Cwt.	6.65	-	9.50	7.61	10.80	8.64
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	44.20	39.10	38.00	43.10	37.40	36.10
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	70.10	63.30	62.60	73.50	66.60	66.30
Calves	Cwt.	115.00	115.00	112.00	106.00	94.90	94.70
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	47.30	36.10	32.20	51.50	40.20	34.90
Sows	Cwt.	38.20	18.50	18.10	39.40	20.00	20.80
Eggs ³	Doz.	.450	.470	.520	.388	.381	.439
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	17.80	12.80	-	16.50	11.20	11.30
Manufactured Grade ...	Cwt.	15.30	9.10	-	15.20	9.50	9.80
All	Cwt.	17.80	12.80	12.70	16.50	11.20	11.20
Milk Cows ⁴	Head	-	1,640.00	-	-	1,670.00	

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.). ⁵ Insufficient data to establish price.

AUGUST FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX **UP 1 POINT FROM LAST MONTH**

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August was 101, based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from the July index. Higher prices for corn, wheat, strawberries, and lettuce, more than offset decreased prices for hogs, broilers, grapes, and potatoes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn more than offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and strawberries.

The current All Farm Products Index is 9 points (8.2 percent) below August, 2001. Lower prices for broilers, hogs, cattle, and lettuce more than offset higher prices for corn, wheat, soybeans, and grapes.

The Food Commodities Index increased by 1 point (1.0 percent) over last month to 99, but was 14 points (12 percent) below August last year.

Feed Grains & Hay: The August Index was 112, up 9.8 percent from last month and 17 percent above August 2001. The corn price, at \$2.48 per bushel, was up 35 cents from July and 58 cents above the August 2001 price. August corn production was forecast 7 percent below 2001. The all hay price, at \$93.70 per ton, was up \$0.10 from last month but \$3.70 below August 2001.

Livestock & Products: The August index, at 87, was down 2.2 percent from last month, and down 22 percent from August 2001. Compared with a year ago, prices were higher for eggs, but lower for all milk, broilers, hogs, all cattle, calves, and turkeys.

Dairy Products: The August index, at 86, was unchanged from July but 32 percent below August 2001. The August all milk price, at \$11.20 per cwt, was unchanged from July but down \$5.30 from last year. The August price for fluid grade milk increased 10 cents from July while the price for manufacturing grade milk rose 30 cents from July. Both fluid and manufacturing grade milk prices decreased from the previous year.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS **JULY 31, 2002**

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 616,000 bushels on July 31, 2002, compared to 446,000 bushels on June 31, 2001. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: Red Delicious with 150,000; Golden Delicious with 124,000; and Rome with 114,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 25,898,000 pounds on July 31, 2002, compared to 18,733,000 pounds on July 31, 2001. There were no pear stocks reported in cold storage on July 31, 2002, the same as last year.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on July 31, 2002, were greater than year earlier levels for pork, poultry, red meat, beef, and vegetables. Cooler stocks of pecans were also above last year while freezer stocks of tart cherries were only half of the July 31, 2001 level.

Butter stocks were 2 percent below June 2002 but 58 percent above a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were slightly above June 30, 2002, and 28 percent above July 2001. Frozen pork stocks were 5 percent below last month but 40 percent above last year. Stocks of pork bellies were 40 percent below last month but 22 percent above July 2001 stocks.

Total frozen poultry supplies on July 31, 2002, were up 5 percent from last month and were 33 percent above last years' level. Total stocks of chicken were up 2 percent from last month and 35 percent above last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers increased 9 percent from last month and 32 percent from last year.

HIRED WORKERS DOWN 12 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 4 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 1.21 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 7-13, 2002, down 12 percent from a year ago. There were 966,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 240,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$8.60 per hour during the July 2002 survey week, up 31 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.91 per hour, up 21 cents from last July. Livestock workers earned \$8.37 per hour compared with \$7.89 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 27 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 39.7 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 0.2 hours from a year ago.

Increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in the Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Northern Plains (Kansas Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), and Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri) regions. In the Southeast, showers were widely scattered causing only slight delays in the harvests of fruit, vegetables, hay and tobacco. Weather conditions in the Pacific region were ideal for all field activities, despite a few showers in western Oregon. Extreme heat in the Northern Plains caused further drying in small grain fields bringing harvest activity to peak levels earlier than normal. Although heavy rains were received in northern Iowa, the remainder of the Corn Belt II region experienced no significant delays in field activities.

The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers, from a year ago, were in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Northeast I (New England and New York), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) regions. Cooler temperatures from mid-week onward in the Corn Belt I region advanced work activities ahead of normal with fewer workers working longer hours. Moderate to heavy rains in the western half of the Lake region slowed field activities for one to two days. Many fields in Texas in the Southern plains region were still saturated from the previous week's flooding, which limited progress

of field activities. In the Northeast I region, the hot, dry conditions pushed field crop maturity ahead of normal, lessening the need for part-time field workers. Scattered showers, some locally heavy, curtailed field activities in the Appalachian II region.

Hired farm worker wage rates were above a year ago in all but 4 regions. The largest increases occurred in the Corn Belt II, Northeast I and Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia) regions. The higher wages resulted from the unseasonable weathers' impact on crop development and limited days suitable for fieldwork, which required fewer part-time workers during the survey week.

FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE RATES, WEEK OF JULY 7-13, 2002

Item	NE II ¹	U. S.
	<i>Thousands</i>	
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers	46	966
Expected to be Employed:		
150 Days or More	33	683
149 Days or Less	13	283
	<i>Hours</i>	
Hours Worked		
Hired	42.5	39.7
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	8.35	8.60
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined ...	7.74	8.02
Field	7.87	7.91
Livestock	7.18	8.37

¹ NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. ² Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the value are not included in the wage rates. ³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

UNITED STATES: MONTHLY FARROWINGS - NUMBER OF SOWS, PIGS PER LITER & PIG CROP; MONTHLY SOWS & GILTS - INVENTORY & NUMBER BRED¹

Month	Sows Farrowing		Pigs per Litter		Pig Crop		Sows and Gilts			
							Inventory 1 st of Month		Bred during Month	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	<i>1,000</i>									
December ²	901	924	8.66	8.66	7,803	8,005	6,090	6,031	1,185	1,189
January	906	943	8.71	8.71	7,887	8,214	6,030	6,022	1,169	1,190
February	941	965	8.79	8.80	8,273	8,492	6,031	6,020	1,142	1,158
March	959	978	8.87	8.80	8,503	8,605	6,053	6,075	1,175	1,181
April	953	973	8.90	8.83	8,481	8,595	5,987	5,980	1,170	1,176
May	958	982	8.90	8.81	8,525	8,651	5,974	5,985	1,165	1,190
June	963	976	8.85	8.87	8,526	8,657	6,001	6,030	1,197	1,192
July	961	980	8.87	8.85	8,522	8,675	5,955	5,975	1,155	1,160
August	954		8.90		8,491		5,955	5,950	1,133	
September	966		8.78		8,481		5,975		1,171	
October	963		8.85		8,523		5,990		1,197	
November	960		8.84		8,488		5,968		1,200	
Total	11,385		8.83		100,503					

¹ Monthly values may not add to quarterly or annual totals due to rounding. ² December preceding year.

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Jul 2001	Jun 2002	Jul 2002	Jul 2001	Jun 2002	Jul 2002
Layers	Thous.	24,262	23,466	23,457	332,231	335,028	335,269
Eggs Per 100 Layers	Number	2,312	2,301	2,353	2,166	2,124	2,190
Eggs Produced	Million	561	540	552	7,195	7,116	7,341
Chick Hatch-Egg Type	Thous.	5,227	4,884	3,815	38,640	35,292	35,218
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	13,604	13,394	13,361	769,449	776,397	781,421
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	27,064	24,409	25,666

EGG PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania egg production totaled 552 million during July, down 2 percent from the July 2001 production. There was an average of 23.5 million layers in the Commonwealth during the month, down 3 percent from July 2001. Average production per 100 layers was 2,353 eggs during July, up 2 percent from July 2001.

Egg-type chicks hatched in Pennsylvania during July totaled 3.8 million, 27 percent below the same month last year. Total egg-type chicks hatched from January to July 2002, at 30.8 million, were down 21 percent from 2001. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 13.4 million during July, down 2 percent from the previous year. Cumulative broiler-type hatch for the first seven months of 2002, at 91.3 million, 1 percent more than the 2001 figure.

United States' egg production totaled 7.34 billion during July 2002, up 2 percent from the corresponding month a year ago. The total number of layers during July averaged 335 million, up 1 percent from the number of layers a year ago. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,190 eggs, up 1 percent from the 2,166 eggs in July 2001.

Egg-type chicks hatched during July totaled 35.2 million, 9 percent above the July 2001 total. Broiler-type hatch, at 781 million, was up 2 percent from July of the previous year. There were 25.7 million turkey poults placed in the United States during July 2002, down 5 percent from the number placed during the same month a year ago.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JUL 2002

Specie	Unit	PA	US
Red Meat Prod . . .	Mil. Lbs.	103.9	4,016
Cattle	Thous. Hd.	88.6	3,187
	Mil. Lbs. Live	112.6	3,978
Calves	Thous. Hd.	18.8	96
	Mil. Lbs. Live	5.6	28
Hogs	Thous. Hd.	212.6	8,068
	Mil. Lbs. Live	51.4	2,101
Sheep & Lambs . .	Thous. Hd.	5.3	258
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.5	33

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production in Pennsylvania during July 2002 totaled 103.9 million pounds, dressed weight basis, up 13 percent from July 2001. Beef production, at 112.6 million pounds live weight, was up 20 percent from July 2001. Total head slaughtered was 88,600 up 18 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 21 pounds to 1,271 pounds. Veal production was 5.6 million pounds live weight, 8 percent more than a year ago. Calf slaughter, at 18,800 head, was up 28 percent, and average live weight decreased 58 pound to 298 pounds. Pork production, at 51.4 million pounds live weight, was up 2 percent from a year earlier. Total head slaughtered was 212,600, was up 4 percent from July of 2001. Average live weight was down 5 pounds per head at 242 pounds. Lamb and mutton production was 541,000 pounds live weight, up 11 percent. The number slaughtered was 5,300, up 13 percent from July of last year. The average live weight decreased 2 pounds from July 2001 to 102 pounds.

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